(b) whether almost 50 per cent of the rail bridges in India have outlived their estimated life span of 100 years, stating the number of bridges more than 100 years and 50 years old, separately;

(c) whether these include some rail bridges in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, what is the action Plan of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) 119984.

(b) No, Sir. Life of bridge cannot be fixed merely in terms of age. Number of bridges over 100 years old is 51340 and the number of bridges over 50 years old is 68644.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Bridges are rebuilt/rehabilitated based on condition and requirement.

Dangerous railway bridges

†732. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA; Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway bridges that have been categorised as dangerous and those capable of bearing loads of increasing rail wagons and passengers;

(b) whether such bridges also exist on which rail traffic is very risky; and

(c) the Zone-wise number of such bridges likely to be opened for train traffic within a year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No Railway bridge has been categorised as dangerous. All Railway bridges are capable of bearing loads of present rolling stock at certified speed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.